



Notice of Public Hearings

Certificate of Need for Additional Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage at the Monticello Power Plant

Please Take Notice

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will hold hearings at the locations and times listed below to receive public comment on Xcel Energy's proposal to establish a dry spent nuclear fuel storage facility on the Monticello Power Plant site in Monticello, Minn., so that the plant can operate up to an additional 20 years, to 2030.

Hearings will be conducted in

Monticello on *Feb. 2, 2006, commencing at 1 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. in the Mississippi Room at the Monticello Community Center, 505 Walnut St.*

St. Paul on *Feb. 16, 2006, commencing at 1 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. in the Small Hearing Room at the commission's offices on the third floor of the Metro Square Building, 121 Seventh Place East. Use the Jackson Street entrance.*

Xcel Energy proposes to establish a storage facility adjacent to the plant and store up to 30 spent nuclear fuel canisters in large concrete vaults so that the plant can operate up to an additional 20 years, to 2030. Before such a facility can be built the Public Utilities Commission must issue a Certificate of Need. As part of the regulatory process the Department of Commerce prepares an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of hearings is to obtain public comments on Xcel Energy's proposal and on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that has been published.

The public is invited to testify at these public hearings. It is not necessary to intervene as a party in order to speak. Members of the public are urged to make their presentations in person. If they cannot, they may submit written comments on or before March 3, 2006, to Administrative Law Judge Steve Mihalchick, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

For more information about the hearings or the Certificate of Need process you may contact David Jacobson, Public Utilities Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, telephone (651) 201-2238 or toll free at 1 (800) 657-3782.

For more information about the EIS you may contact Deborah Pile, Department of Commerce, 85 Seventh Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198, telephone (651) 297-2375.

You may also call (651) 201-2202 (voice) or 1 (800) 627-3529 (TTY relay service).

Copies of Xcel Energy's application for a Certificate of Need and the Draft EIS are posted at the Public Utilities Commission Web site at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/>.

